

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3994

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHES

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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PARIS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY AND FLASH FOR AMBASSADOR STABLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, NATO

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SUBJ: ORDERLY DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

EMPHASIZED BY NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT IN INITIAL PROGRAM
PRINCIPLES STATEMENTS

REF: MADRID 8708

SUMMARY. GENERAL STATEMENTS OF PROGRAM PRINCIPLES MADE DECEMBER 15 BY KING JUAN CARLOS AND NEW GOVERNMENT STRESS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND ORDERLY POLITICAL REFORMS AIMED AT BRINGING SPAIN MORE INTO TUNE WITH THE "WESTERN COMMUNITY." END SUMMARY.

1. KING JUAN CARLOS CHAIRED THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW CABINET DECEMBER 15 DURING AND FOLLOWING WHICH STATEMENTS OF PROGRAM PRINCIPLES WERE MADE. AT DECEMBER 13 SWEARING-IN CEREMONY PREMIER ARIAS HAD ANTICIPATED FIRST GOVERNMENT STATEMENT OF PROGRAM INTENT. HE THEN SAID NEW GOVERNMENT SHOULD FOCUS ON REFORMS DESIGNED TO BROADEN POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN ORDER TO PERFECT SPANISH POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS TO MEET PRESENT-DAY NEEDS. NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR DEFENSE AFFAIRS, LT. GEN. MENDIVIL, SPEAKING FOR HIS FELLOW MINISTERS, PROMISED THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PROGRESSIVE BUT "WITHOUT REPTURES OR ADVENTURES." HE ALSO PROMISED THAT ARMED FORCES WOULD BE STRENGTHENED COMMENSURATE WITH SPAIN'S PRESENT-DAY STANDING AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. IN BRIEF REMARKS OPENING DECEMBER 15 CABINET MEETING, KING JUAN CARLOS STRESSED SOCIAL ISSUES. HE SAID THE MAIN TASK WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN PEACE WITH JUSTICE AND TO PROMOTE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. EACH SPANIARD SHOULD BE ASSURED OF A "WORKPLACE" WHICH PROVIDED FOR FAMILY NEEDS AND ACCESS TO COUNTRY'S CULTURAL ADVANTAGES. THE KING SAID SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AIDING THE WEAK. HE ALSO URGED REFORMS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND BROADER SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN WORLD AFFAIRS COMMENSURATE WITH NATION'S HISTORICAL AND GEOPGRAPHICAL POSITION.

3. THE GOVERNMENT THEN RELEASED ITS FIRST STATEMENT OF GENERAL PROGRAM PRINCIPLES IN A REGULAR NATIONWIDE TV NEWS-CAST LATE DECEMBER 15. DRAFTING APPARENTLY CONTINUED IN THE AFTERNOON AFTER THE CABINET MEETING. INITIAL DRAFTS WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN DONE BY BOTH FRAGA AND AREILZA. STATEMENT ALSO REFERS TO PEACE, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS, BUT PLACES STRONG EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL EVOLUTION.

4. AFTER SINGLE MENTION OF THE RESTORATION OF PEACE BY FRANCO, THE STATEMENT SAYS THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE IS PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND CONCORD OF ALL INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND TENDENCIES WHICH ACCEPT A "JUST AND DECOCRATIC ORDER AND

RESPECT FOR LAW AND PUBLIC ORDER."

5. STATEMENT THEN REFERS TO KING AS NATION'S FIRST SOLDIER AND THE ARMED FORCES AS A PILLAR OF CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER. THE GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO STRENGTHEN THE ARMED FORCES.

6. TURNING NEXT TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MATTERS, STATEMENT SAYS PRESENT MOMENT REQUIRES "AUSTERITY AND WORK" BUT PLEDGES GOVERNMENT TO ASSURE A "WORKPLACE FOR ALL" AND AN "AUTHENTIC TRANSFORMATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STRUCTURES" IN CONFORMITY WITH THE KING'S DIRECTIVE TO PROMOTE "SOCIAL JUSTICE." THIS WILL BE DONE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A "MARKET ECONOMY," AND OF ORIENTATION OF THE ECONOMY TOWARD BROADER INTEGRATION "IN THE EUROPEAN AND WORLD COMMUNITIES."

7. TURNING TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, THE STATEMENT PROMISES REFORM LEADING TO GREATER PARTICIPATION "WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION OR PRIVILEGES." BROADER "FREEDOMS AND CIVIL RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY THE RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION; AND REFORM OF REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS" ARE PROMISED. THE OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO BROADEN THE POPULAR BASE AND TO PRODUCE A GREATER "HOMOGENEITY WITH THE WESTERN COMMUNITY." A PRECONDITION IS THE ACCEPTANCE BY ALL CITIZENS OF AN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS WITHOUT RUPTURE AND WITHOUT UNJUSTIFIED DISORDER. THE STATEMENT SAYS THE GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO PERSIST IN "THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SPANISH DEMOCRACY THAT CANNOT BE HARMED BY ANY TOTALITARIAN THREAT."

8. THE GOVERNMENT FURTHER PROMISES TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL UNITY BY INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF ALL REGIONS AND LOCAL AUTONOMY.

9. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE GOVERNMENT PROMISES COOPERATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHOUT ACCEPTANCE OF DISCRIMINATION, WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN DEFENSE OF ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS. THE STATEMENT SAYS THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS ITS INTERESTS ESPECIALLY TIED TO THE "ATLANTIC AND WESTERN WORLD" AND IN A SPECIAL WAY ALSO TO ITS GEOPOLITICAL AREA AND TO THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TIES.

10. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT SPECIFIES THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO PRESENT DETAILED PROGRAMS; THE STATEMENT IS THUS ESSENTIALLY A DECLARATION OF BASIC PRINCIPLES. ITS GENERAL TONE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE THRUST OF THE KING'S INAUGURAL SPEECH TO THE CORTES NOVEMBER 22. BOTH THE KING'S BRIEF REMARKS TO THE CABINET AND THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT REFLECT A MAJOR CONCERN FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELFARE. WHILE THE KING OMITTED REFERENCE TO POLITICAL REFORMS IN HIS BRIEF

REMARKS, THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT GOES FURTHER THAN HERETOFORE IN INDICATING THAT BROAD POLITICAL REFORMS ARE PLANNED. IT ALSO ACCENTS CLOSE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND FENENSE TIES WITH EUROPE AND THE WEST. IT REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO THE "ATLANTIC WORLD." IN ADDITION IT SEEMS TO IMPLY INTENT TO GIVE INCREASED ATTENTION TO THE STRENGTHENING OF SPAIN'S ARMED FORCES. ABSENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT IS THE DEGREE OF EMPHASIS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS IN RECENT YEARS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS POINTED MENTION OF AVOIDANCE OF RUPTURE AND MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL PEACE. THE STATEMENT IS FROWARD-LOOKING, POSITIVE, AND HOPEFUL IN CONTENT.

11. TWO GOVERNMENT ACTIONS ON DECEMBER 15 TEND TO ADD CREDIBILITY TO ITS INTENTIONS TO OPEN UP THE POLITICAL SYSTEM:
(1) IT RETURNED PSOE LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ' PASSPORT, AND
(2) VICE PRESIDENT FRAGA REPORTEDLY LUNCHEDED WITH PROFESSOR TIerno GALVAN, THE LEADER OF THE ILLEGAL POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY.
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